

SITUATION REPORT NO. 12
INCIDENT NO. 98-001
DATE: August 18, 1998 TIME: 2:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Devils Lake Basin and eastern North Dakota flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: Walsh County officials have reported that flooding conditions contributed to the deaths of two people in early March, 1998. Both people died from exposure. In addition to flooding, a snowstorm was occurring at the time of the incident. According to local officials, both died from exposure as a result of their vehicle stalling on a flooded bridge.
3. DAMAGES: Devils Lake at Creel Bay measured 1,444.23 feet MSL on August 17. Preliminary data from the National Weather Service indicates that the lake peaked twice this summer, first on May 29 at 1,444.69 feet and then on July 14 at 1,444.77 feet.

Bottineau County agriculture officials report that excessive rain on August 1 and 2 caused extensive flooding over eastern portions of the county, including one area that received seven inches of rain. Water was flowing over roads, washing out culverts and resulting in bridge damages and closures.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: A group of Forman area residents held a clean-up day on August 8 to clear debris, silting and other items left by receding flood waters.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The N.D. State Water Commission has issued an emergency permit for a drain in the McLeod area. The Ransom County Water Board developed plans for the project to relieve the community of McLeod of standing water. Residents have been coping with water-related problems to include high water table, contaminated wells and septic system problems.

The city of Forman and the Sargent County Water Board have been working to repair a drain tile that helps divert water from the city. Approximately 100 feet of tile collapsed, causing backup into three homes and the city's main lift stations. Overland flood waters are believed to have caused erosion around the pipe.

State-federal disaster recovery teams have been meeting with flood victims in the sixteen declared counties and two Indian reservations.

North Dakota's administrative plan for the Individual and Family Grant (IFG) Program has been approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Based on initial estimates, the total expenditures of the program to help this year's flood victims in 16 counties and two Indian reservations are expected to reach \$1.5 million. To date, the state IFG staff has received 168

applications and paid \$18,499 to date to disaster victims. Disaster victims have until September 21 to register for assistance. State and federal disaster recovery officials have encouraged rural residents in eastern North Dakota who have been affected by water damage to register for assistance by calling FEMA's teleregistration center at (800) 462-9029.

As of August 17, a total of 1,010 North Dakotans had contacted the FEMA teleregistration center to register for Individual Assistance Programs made available as part of FEMA-1220-DR-ND recovery efforts. Of the applicants, to date 124 have received \$159,024 in grants from FEMA's Disaster Housing Programs. Disaster victims may be referred to one or more programs.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved \$19,800 in low-interest loans for homeowners and business owners.

The Individual and Family Grant Program, administered by North Dakota Emergency Management, has received 383 applications for assistance. To date, \$51,700 in funds has been dispersed to flood victims.

Job Service North Dakota has received 169 claims for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) for flood victims who are unemployed as a direct result of the disaster. Claim amount as of August 17 totaled \$94,073. Applicants have until September 2 to apply for DUA at their local Job Service offices. Those who may be eligible include self-employed individuals, business owners, farmers, farm workers and migrant farmers.

State and federal Public Assistance staff are conducting inspections of damaged sites and preparing Damage Survey Reports, which are general plans to facilitate repair of the damaged sites. Public Assistance staff in the Jamestown satellite office include eight state inspectors, two state team leaders, one state reviewer, seven FEMA inspectors, one FEMA team leader and one FEMA reviewer. In the Devils Lake satellite office, there are 13 state inspectors, two team leaders, seven FEMA inspectors, one FEMA team leader and one FEMA reviewer.

As of August 13, 117 Notice of Interest applications had been received for participation in the Public Assistance Program. Applicants include: 16 counties; two reservations; 55 cities; three private non-profit organizations; three electrical cooperatives; 12 schools and universities; eight park boards; 12 water resource districts; one rural utility; one historical society; and four state agencies. The Processing Center in Bismarck has received 187 Damage Survey Reports (DSRs) and has obligated funds for 152 DSRs. To date, \$2,706,090 in infrastructure repairs, emergency work and debris removal has been determined to be eligible statewide.

1997 Spring Flood

North Dakota Emergency Management has initiated meetings with 35 state agencies to review and revise the State Emergency Operations Plan. The updates are based, in part, on After Action Reports submitted by state agencies responding to the 1997 flood, and on analysis of the plan by Emergency Operations staff.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: No change from previous reports.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director